

## ABSTRACT

The apparatuses and methods described herein implement a novel and  
5 unique facility that decrease the time taken to perform a print job. This is  
accomplished by print load balancing, cluster printing and color, black-and-  
white page splitting.

The print load balancing consists of several aspects. One aspect is to route  
10 print jobs to the most available printer based on factors such as color, black-  
and-white printing, printing page per minute rates, the number of pages in a  
job, size and number of copies in a job. Another aspect is to split the printing  
over more than one printer where there are several copies to be made. Yet  
another aspect is to split the printing over more than one printer for a single  
15 copy.

Cluster printing consists of specifying a group of printers from which a print  
job can be performed.

20 Color/black-and-white page splitting consists of splitting a printer job, sending  
non-color pages to black-and-white printers and sending pages with color, to  
color printers.